



Sherman Oaks Neighborhood Association

Notes from the President

First of all I would like to thank Randi Kinman our out going President for guiding us for the past 2 years. She will be a hard act to follow **THANKS!!! Randi** for all you do and have done for us.

SONA residents listed disaster preparedness as a priority for this year and to that end **Marlene Bird** has done a lot of the work for you by contacting the Red Cross, FEMA and other groups to get the information and recommendations for all of us. She has obtained brochures, combined lists and has organized an overwhelming amount of information in a manner that is easy for you to use. She has compiled this information into an easy to use household binders that allows you to take step by step actions (see **Emergency Preparedness, Part 2**) on page 2. At last month's meeting she distributed the binders and presented Phase 1, at this month's she will be presenting Phase 2. For those of you who attended last month's meeting **DO NOT FORGET** to bring your binders. If you where unable to attend the meeting to receive this valuable resource binder plan on coming to this month's meeting to get one.

SONA is a group of neighbors and residents who work and play together to make sure our neighborhood gets better each year. We sponsor activities, meet monthly and try to make sure we are addressing the needs of the neighborhood. We need your help in continuing to bring you these monthly newsletters and to improve our financial stability and encourage your family and neighbors to join or renew your annual SONA membership.

We encourage our members and all Sherman Oaks Community residents to become more involved in SONA activities and events and to participate in improving our Sherman Oaks Community and adjacent neighborhoods. We look forward to seeing you and your neighbors at upcoming events and membership meetings. If you have any questions, please contact me at mlrool@sbcglobal.net or at 408.564.2374. The best time to reach me is early weekday evenings.

Please join us at our next meeting.

Michael

**SONA
General
Meeting
May 13, 2009**

6:30 PM Coffee and Snacks
**Catch up with your
Neighbors**

7:00 PM
SJPD if Available
Budget Update
Emergency Prep Phase 2
Marlene Bird
(see article page 3)

8:30PM Adjourn

**Sherman Oaks Neighborhood
Association meetings are held on
the second Thursday of each
month at the Sherman Oaks
Community Center, 1800A
Fruitdale Ave Room 1. SJ CA
95128**

**Our Board of Directors meets
the third Tuesday of the month
at 6:30pm in the same room.**

Notes and News

Relay for Life is an annual event to raise funds for cancer awareness and treatment. One of our neighbors across the freeway, Robert Solis, wants to let us know he's participating in the May 15-16 event at Willow Glen High School. The event runs for 24 hours straight. For more information, contact the event Chair Jenn Lessa at 218-7748 or go to www.relayforlife.org/willowglenca.

The National Association of Letter Carriers (NALC) conducts an annual food drive the second Saturday of each May. This is an easy way for you to help out the hungry locally. **On May 8, 2010 you can place a box or bag of non-perishable food next to your mailbox.** The letter carriers will do the rest. They will pick up the food and transport it to a local food bank for distribution in our community. Community food banks and pantries have received over 1 billion pounds of food through this drive over the last 17 year. Now, more than ever, every can or box of food makes a huge difference in feeding the hungry, many of them children, in our community.

Sacred Heart Community Center at 1381 S. First Street is a one stop shop for services and is always looking for donations. Current critical needs are for baby products and diapers. A recent donation of a bag of men's shoes wasn't even sorted because people were waiting for them. Sacred heart serves families in need with child programs, food and clothing and acts as the county's coordinator for federally funded energy efficiency funds as well as short term utility bill help. You can help by donating food, clothing or your time. The Academic Summer Camp is also looking for volunteers. For more information you can check out their website at www.shctheheart.org or call 278-2188. **The San Jose Peace Chorale** is conducting their annual spring concert at Chai House on May 22, 2010 at 7pm. This great concert is offered for free within walking distance of your house. Chai House is senior housing at 814 St. Elizabeth Drive, SJ.

SONA is conducting another fund raising drive and collecting your recyclable bottles and cans...the ones you pay CRV charges on. Jussi and Lisa will be driving through the neighborhood on **May 19, 2010 to collect your recyclable materials. You must call them in advance to arrange pick up. If you need pick up prior to then, just give them a shout.** SONA runs on donations to sustain our budget. This year we must raise several thousand dollars to offset newsletter production costs. You can pay your dues, donate extra funds or use our newsletter for advertising. We've even made it a green process by establishing PayPal on the front page of our website at www.sona-sj.com. All funds collected go directly back into neighborhood outreach because we are an all volunteer group. Help us help our neighborhood.

With Mother's Day coming up, this is a good time to think of different gifts for the mother who has everything. Why not go for something completely different? Guadalupe River Park Conservancy (Formerly known as Guadalupe River Parks and Gardens) has a great package that will make any mom happy. For \$50 you can adopt a rose in her name and receive a great little gift box filled with rose petal potpourri, chocolate from Shurra's and a bar of beeswax soap made by Sacred Bee. Her rose will be personalized with a plaque so you can send her a special message when you take her out there. Proceeds support the garden, its educational services and maintenance of the gardens, orchard and other features. For more information, go to www.grpg.org/adoptarose or call Phil Cornish at 298-7657.

Speaking of Rose Gardens, the volunteers at the San Jose Municipal Rose Garden want to remind you they are in the running and you can still vote to name them best rose garden in the U.S. this year by visiting on the weekend or going to their website at friendssjrosegarden.org. Congrats to all of those volunteers.

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Website	www.sona-sj.com	

<p>SONA's newsletter is published monthly and distributed to almost 1500 residences. It is partially funded by a City of San Jose CAP Grant. All ad copy is due by the 15th of each month. Our all-volunteer group welcomes your participation and comments.</p>
<p>SONA Newsletter Editor: Randi Kinman</p>

Emergency Preparedness, Part 2

Last month board member Marlene Bird kicked off our emergency preparedness training with an overview of the project and some drill down in the first few chapters.

Marlene has combed websites and gathered flyers from a variety of sources and has compiled an easy to use binder system for each family. These binders were available at our last SONA meeting and will be available at each meeting. The binders walk you through a step by step process to prepare each member of your family whether it's how to prepare emergency kits for home and car or how to develop a plan in case of any emergency. By breaking down a wealth of information into easy to follow chapters, you can prepare your home and family without being overwhelmed by the process. There is an old saying that you don't eat the entire elephant in one gulp, you break it down bite by bite. Marlene has provided us with easy to chew bites of information that allow you to complete the process at your own pace.

Everything will be included in the binder from lists and checklists to first aid supplies, establishing evacuation plans, medical records files and neighborhood contacts. The first few chapters were included at last month's meeting and this month we will add more chapters and acquire new "homework".

Preparing for an emergency is a daunting task. Keeping track of your progress can seem overwhelming. By using a simple system already prepared for you, you can work through the process at your own pace and adapt it to your needs. Have pets? There's info on that. Want more resource data? You'll find it. Not sure which tools you need around the house or in a portable kit? Not only will you get a complete list, Marlene has assembled products you can easily find at local stores. You can buy a pre-made kit or assemble your own, but first you can get your hands on the products mentioned.

These kits were provided free to SONA families who attended last month's meetings and will continue to be available to SONA members at the meetings. If you find them valuable, we encourage you to make a donation. If you want an extra binder for family, friends or other neighbors, we will gladly sell them to you at the nominal cost of \$17.25 to cover our production costs.

Thanks to Marlene Bird you can prepare your household for emergencies and know you will have all resources on hand.

Friends of Bascom Avenue Library

Community Meeting

Board member Steve Kline has started a Friends of Bascom Library to organize our efforts to open the new facility when it is completed later this year. To ensure this happens, we need to organize and lobby our elected officials because there is no guarantee that the library or community center will be available. We aren't the only ones in this position.

A community meeting will be held on May 17, 2010 at 6:30pm at the Com Tam Thanh Vietnamese Restaurant at 905 S. Bascom Avenue. The owner has graciously allowed the community use of a large room. No purchase necessary, but take advantage of this to try out our neighborhood's new and highly rated restaurant.

Current budget recommendations are to keep the entire center closed until money isn't so tight. Not only does this raise a question of equity and parity for neighborhoods who have long paid their dues and not received the benefit of city services, it also puts the warrantee of the systems built into the library and community center in jeopardy. New buildings often have to be debugged and that only happens when you open the building, turn on the systems and run them. Warranties go into effect when the building is done and are in place for a limited time. If you don't run the building you can't know what problems could occur and any correction post-warranty would be at the city's expense.

Because this is a time for the entire community to act, Steve, along with Susan Price-Jang have begun organizing a grass roots effort and will be holding meetings that will help you participate in this process. Sign up on the Friends of Bascom Library Facebook page. This is one time when a few people can't be the only ones who speak up; we all need to raise our voices.

You can help by flyering the neighborhood, making phone calls or writing to our elected officials. Be part of a bigger strategy and attend the May 17 meeting with your neighbors, library staff, library commission members and a host of others who feel like you do: Libraries are for everyone and should be opened.

Libraries are services the city provides. If you want you local library open, join these efforts. If you want to be involved call (408)256-0869 or email friendsofbascomlibrary@gmail.com .

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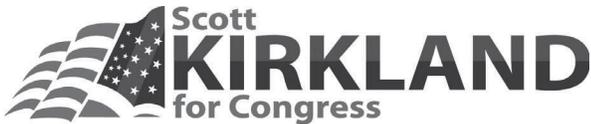
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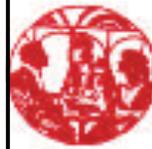
Returning to Our Founding Principles

Vote on Tuesday, June 8, 2010

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CONTACT OUR EDITOR

Randi Kinman at

randikinman@yahoo.com

Com Tam Thanh

Vietnamese Restaurant

This month's local advertising is sponsored by board member Steve Kline. Com Tam Thanh is our newest restaurant at 905 S. Bascom Avenue near Fruitdale. Locals and Yelp loggers all rate this restaurant high.

Join us there on May 17 at 6:30 pm for our Friends of Bascom Library meeting.